

STAT

18 JUN 1980

STAT

Mr. Reese Cleghorn
National Conference of Editorial
Writers
Post Office Box 34928
Washington, D.C. 20034

Dear Mr. Cleghorn:

This is in response to your letter of May 12th to
Admiral Turner.

I am surprised that the National Conference of Editorial Writers has just discovered our current regulations and policy concerning CIA relations with U.S. news media organizations and personnel. Those regulations were announced and promulgated as an enclosure to a news release on 2 December 1977. They were widely reported in the news media, including Editor and Publisher on 17 December 1977. There were also lengthy open hearings on this same subject conducted in December 1977 and April 1978 by the Subcommittee on Oversight of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

We remain opposed to a law that would bar a journalist or any other patriotic American from voluntarily aiding his country in a time of critical need, emergency or when human lives were at stake. I have trouble believing that any thinking person would want a law on the books that would prohibit CIA from enlisting the voluntary services of an American journalist under any possible circumstances. Further, I feel certain that most professional journalists would be embarrassed to admit they needed legislation to protect their personal ethics. Any journalist unwilling to cooperate needs only the moral strength to say "no."

We do understand your concern and regret that we are so far apart on this subject. I do think, however, that continuing to debate the issue in public creates more potential harm to U.S. journalists abroad than would be possible under our existing policies which have worked safely and well for the past two and one half years.

Sincerely,

/s/ Frank C. Carlucci

Frank C. Carlucci
Acting Director

SUBJECT: Letter to Reese Cleghorn, National Conference
of Editorial Writers

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